

REMARKS

Claims 29-43 are pending in the application. Claims 29-38 are canceled herein without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in one or more related applications. Claims 39 and 41 are amended herein to correct typographical errors. Claim 39 is also amended herein to state that the recited polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:16 or a variant thereof that differs at no more than 15% of the residues of SEQ ID NO:16. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at least at pages 12 and 23. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 39-43 will be pending.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 29-32, drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:16 (a human E3 ligase), vector, antisense and cell comprising the polynucleotide;
- II. Claim 33, drawn to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:16;
- III. Claims 34-36, drawn to an antibody that recognizes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:16;
- IV. Claims 37 and 38, drawn to methods of *in vivo* treatment using a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:16; and
- V. Claims 39-43, drawn to screening methods using a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:16.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I-V are distinct, each from the other.

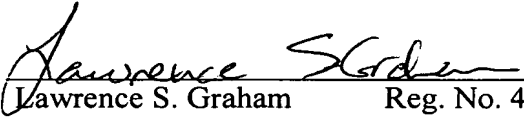
Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group V, claims 39-43.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the present remarks be made of record in the file history of the present application. An early allowance of the application is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions concerning the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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